

CRUCIALZINE!



WORD UP, BROSEPH!



You are in possession of the second issue of CRUCIAL 'ZINE, so consider yourself cool and high-five the closest person in your immediate vicinity. Right on. The first issue was a complete success, we managed to give away 100 free copies in and around Cambridge. We have none left, but you can download it in sexy .pdf format from our webspaces. Now you got something else to circulate around in your office, aside from racist jokes and love confessions.



**Just so you don't get the wrong impression:
You have your own free will. Last we checked it wasn't repealed yet, so get using it.
We aren't encouraging you to break the law. You are the law. Duh.
Everything we say is biased, malinformed and malicious opinion. Fuck you.**

On a side note, this issue is interviews heavy, but unfortunately we had to cut the Sam Russo one (arguably the best one) since it's taking us forever to transcribe it. Sorry Sam. As soon as we sort it out, we'll post it on the net and make sure it's in issue 3. Other righteous shit you will find herein include our guides to making you a more crucial person and our own quality brand of cynical and harsh criticism in various forms of conveying ideas through photocopied paper. Anyway, enough of this reading bullshit, sit back, crack open a cold one and laugh away at the funny pictures and swear words...

- TEAM CRUCIAL



**ONE MOSH FOR ALEX.
R.I.P. · 06.12.08**

THE INTERNET:
myspace.com/crucialzine
crucialzine.blogspot.com

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



photos by i. peleginis
 1. vanilla pod
 2. sss
 3. fucked up
 4. centurion's ghost
 5. volunteers



DOMINIC'S CRUCIAL GUIDE TO LIFEHOOD!

WHAT NOT TO WEAR AT A GIG OR IN THE MOSH-PIT

Firstly I would like to tackle the subject of skin tight girls jeans...big no no at a punk show, this isn't fashion advice, it's just a proven fact that skin tight jeans have a devastating -10 to your mosh stats. Let us focus on the impracticalities of moshing in skin tight jeans.

Firstly you can't move that freely at all, how the hell are you supposed to punch the floor when you can't bend your knees?! Not only this, but surely they cut off the circulation to your crotch and splice your balls in two? No? Oh yeah, YOU HAVE NO FUCKING BALLS. As we all know, denim is the most absorbent material known to man! So the minute you break out in a sweat...(which if you're moshing at full capacity is going to happen) you're going to be soaked and weighed down and this will greatly diminish your moshing stats which, let's face it, none of us want...ever! There is a situation where skin tight girls jeans look good and that's on a fucking girl, moron! You're not in Motley Crue or Fall Out Boy and if your are, then you're just a cunt!

Now a pair of normal-fit or loose-fit jeans are a bit better or better yet, jean cut-offs, so you get that all important breeze up the leg and to your crotch and balls and as we all know, shorts are just the way *forward*. Shorts are clearly the superior choice for gig wear, as are 3/4 lengths, if that's how you choose to live your life. But still being made of denim they have there draw backs, such as the unnecessary amount of moisture absorbed.



fig.1 : Cargo shorts, loose-fit chinos, cut-offs and mosh-gloves:
This crew knows what the fuck is up



Now cargos are the ultimate choice for a gig. They're comfortable, light and most importantly they dry bloody quick, so even if some prick knocks into you at the bar spilling his stupid bright red pint on you (snake-bite black is not a real drink, grow some balls!) you still look brootal. I quite like the cargos you can get from Tesco (cost about £7). Now these are normally full-length and anyone who knows me, knows that I wear shorts all year round. The best way to make your gig shorts is to take a pair of scissors and cut them just below the knee and DONE! Now you're ready to punch that floor.



“the minute you break out in
a sweat...

(which if you're moshing at *full capacity* is going to happen)

you're going to be soaked and weighed
down and...

this will *greatly* diminish your moshing stats”

fig.2: They might be hot, but these bitches can't hold their own in the pit for long.

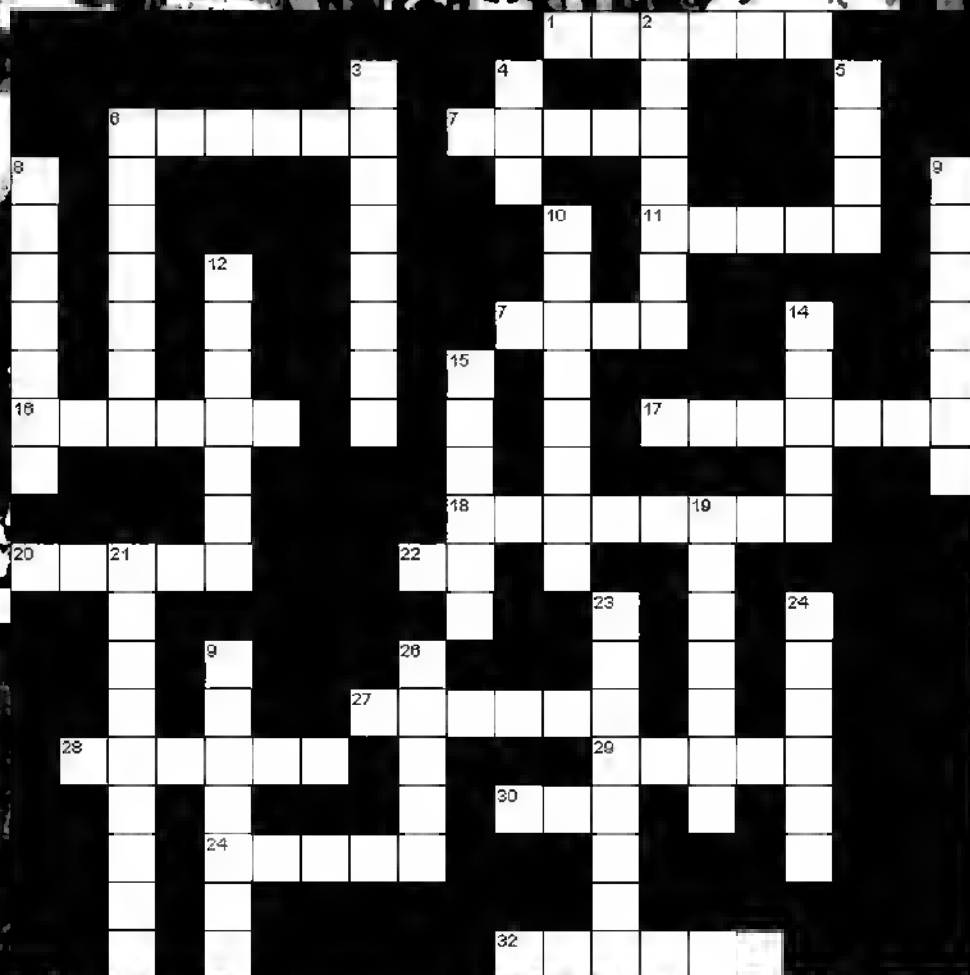


fig. 3: He is not getting laid tonight.

Now there is an unwritten rule when going to a gig, you never ever under any circumstances wear a t shirt of the headline band! This rule is similar to the rule in a pub that you NEVER put a drink on the pool table! Similar to if you buy a tee from the merch stand, if your an inexperienced school girl you wont put that shirt straight on. If you buy a shirt and start wearing it straight away, once ur in the pit all sweaty and that pissed up twat with the ugly girlfriend has spilt his snakebite black (or Diesel if your in the north of england) on you then your fucked once you leave the venue. Now one thing that is nearly as bad as wearing the headline bands tee are those bellends who have the custom made punk jackets that just look "pre modified" and bought off ebay. Right theres one thing having band patches and shit on your jacket but the pricks who hand write band names on their shit, no one gives a shit if you like AFI, good charlotte and in fact even if you do like these shite bands why would you advertise it?! Cunt!

CROSSWORDS FOR TEH PUNX!

Fill in the names of these 1980s USHC dudes. No fucking prizes to be won. Clues range from the cryptic to the fucking obvious...



Across:

1. Bubba played 'sax' in DC
6. Alan hates Springa's guts
7. Roger had a little bro
11. He's got a nasty Coca Cola tatto
13. Greg looked like a hippy
16. Midget rock star taken down a peg by the North Side Kings
17. Chris did drugs, never got scurvy
18. This guy ruined the Cro Mags
20. Pat was a tough guy
22. Apparently still has the PMA and doesn't hate gay people anymore
27. These bros never get sick of it
28. Vic taught Zach all he knew
29. The World Famous ... Yell.
30. Tesco ..., the Dutch Hercules
31. Gary loves dicks
32. Paulie The Dog's carer/owner

Down:

2. Ray liked to draw fucked up shit
3. Best singer in Black Flag
4. Anthony screams like a monkey
5. Miked needs to be institutionalised
6. John's approach pwn'd
8. Kevin has few moments to spare
9. Small man, big mouth (great ideas)
10. This Joey comes in from Canada
12. Darryl has a girl's name
14. Three brothers not related to Howard
15. There's always room for him
19. Jimmy likes tattoos and bongos
21. Interviewed him last issue
23. Young Republican fought fire with fire
24. 'Wun' of 'fo' non-related brudders
25. Dr. Punk Rock who beats it to 16 y.o. camwhores
26. Bobby set land speed records

D X T P S M C X D E S T S W I N G I N U T T E R S
I P Q Q A T A R I S G I M M E G I M M E S R G Q T
L O E O R V A P K A V A I L R Z X Q N R J U X N S
L H N D C X D Q V Q Y Y W E O N N O E C L L O H T
I G B D R J V N U E R E G I O R O F Q P Z G D Q R
N G B A E O V G J A K F R R I F R F D S A K T E U
G H O W D C P J L A B T R B E U F R X W W R N N N
E P P O D R G K J B E A X E S E A S G Y U I A N G
R T U Q B I E N I N R H T C N T N A P H C L F V O
F B L X P E A L I C E A I S S Z L D N R N E G A U
O I L M N H R L I T K N N U O T A D A L I Z K N T
U U E I T A A P R G A M M C H F R L M Y L N S D W
R E Y S N K W V A T I F U J I N X M R B O Y G A I
L H S V L K T Y A T V O U R Y D B S Y H N M Y L Z
R E A A S L K S V L R I N R P P C A P D O W N S O
L M E F I R S T F A D O N K O H Z I T M D M V T U
U U K T F U Y M M L J B L Z V S Y Z L V J P B X S
R B W M L S N U F F J U G H E A D S R E V E N G E
H Y P R O P A G A N D H I A M B R A C K E T S O P
A G A I N S T A L L A U T H O R I T Y S N G X A P
M T E N F O O T P O L E W V X I S A M I A M W P F
L M L G M T Z O Y I G O O D R I D D A N C E B V J
L W P T V K V E D D M A D C A D D I E S N U F A N
F M B I G W I G P E N N Y W I S E C Y U F X R I H
H G Q H D Z K B O S S T O N E S Y K E P C W M L P

There are 40 punk bands from the 1990s hidden! Maybe more show up randomly... Look vertically, horizontally and diagonally. Recommended soundtrack: Punk-O-Rama vol. 1-V



Audacity! is a hardcore band from Bury St. Edmunds. In the words of the legendary Robert Hamburger they are '*cool, and by cool I mean totally sweet*'. For those not familiar with them, they are East Anglia's answer to Comeback Kid or something. Check them out at myspace.com/audacityhc

So, who's in the band? How did it all start? What do you guys do outside of the band? I understand some of your members are in other bands as well...

We started up last summer as a bit of fun. We all wanted to do something a bit different to our other bands and fancied playing some cool shows whilst doing it. Our other bands are: Tom (vocals) and Dean (guitar) are in This is Colour, Joe (guitar) and Sean (bass) are in One Step Down, Sean is also in Get Fucking Dead and Towely (drums) was in the Volunteers.

What's the scene like in Bury St Edmunds? What other hardcore bands from there should everyone know about?

It's pretty cool, everyone is friends with each other and we all help each other out with shows, equipment or whatever it may be. Any show any of our bands play out of town you can be fairly sure they'll be at least a car load of people coming from Bury to support you, which is pretty awesome. Make sure you check out all the bands we are in and their friends!

Do any of you skate, ride BMXs or anything? Any good spots or shops in Bury St Edmunds? How do you feel about such activities becoming mainstream sports? I hear BMXing will be in the next Olympics.

We all own a board or bike in one form or another but Joe is the only one who puts any real effort in. We have one of (if not) the best skate and bmx shop in the county in Bury. It's called Hardcore Hobbies (www.hardcorehobbieshq.com) and if you ever need any parts or clothes, go to this place first! They are all safe bredrins.

When I saw you guys in Cambridge, your singer announced the upcoming 2-step part in one of your songs. What 2-step parts from other bands inspire you to write your own?

Tom: Ah mack, yeah it was just a bit of a joke as most kids tend to wait for the '2-step' bits.

Towely: It's all about phat riffs and tight beats innit.

What's the story behind your lyrics? What things are your songs about? Do you have a political or social agenda as a band?

Tom: They used to be about friends/hangin' out but as mack as it sounds, they've taken a lot more of a turn into darkness as it were, a bit more personal I guess. I feel a bit more comfortable singing about that.



Are any of you straight edge? What do you think of straight edge the way it is these days?

[Dean is the only sxe guy in the band] Dean: It's hard to say, so many people come and go and it sucks cause it is not a fashion statement. There are so many honest people out there who do it for themselves. It's not a game but unfortunately like everything else people do things for popularity. Be honest do it for yourself.

How do you feel about DIY in punk/hc? Is it something done (if at all) out of habit, or something more purposeful?

Towely: In my other band Volunteers (recently deceased) we played a load of gigs in the DIY punk/hc scene. Every person I met was so into what they were doing, they wanted to put on good show, get friends out for a good night, get bands heard and basically help anyone out they could. A lot of them lost money or didn't get a great turnout, but it didn't matter cos everyone who was there was really into it, and that's all that matters.

Vinyl or tapes?Vinyl

Black Flag or Black Sabbath?Sabbath

Bad Brains or Bad Religion?Bad Religion (apart from Towely, Bad Brains all day long)

Han Solo or Indiana Jones?Han Solo obviously

Sharks or tigers?Terror Sharks

And finally, what are your top-10 bands to see live?

Metallica

Paint it Black

Municipal Waste

Rhythm to the Madness

Blacklisted

Between the Buried and Me

Lagwagon

Violation

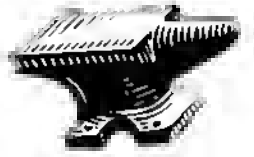
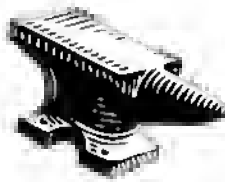
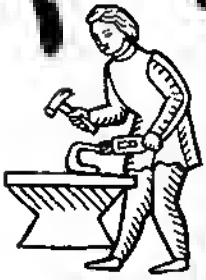
Have Heart

The Argent Dawn



AUDACITY IS ON TOUR! CHECK THEM OUT!
questions by Bobatron
photos lifted from myspace.com/audacityhc
while you're at it, check out these bands too:
myspace.com/thisiscolour
myspace.com/osdbsehc
myspace.com/getfuckingdead
myspace.com/volunteerspunk

how to forge... MOSH GLOVES



YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 pair of heavy duty work gloves
- 1 permanent marker pen (black ink)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1.



2.



BOBATRON 5000's

MOSH GLOVES FACTS:

Mosh gloves are possessed by the spirits of all hard-asses from the past, a lot like how the Matrix works in the *Transformers*. Hard-asses include *Attila the Hun*, *Spartacus* and *Charles Bronson*.

Mosh gloves grant you +5 to all stats when in the *mosh pit*.

Famed Cambridge mathematician *Steven Hawking* crafted the Universe's mightiest mosh gloves from the original atoms that caused the Big Bang. Their sheer awesomeness have seemingly crippled him, but also elevated him to a higher state of consciousness.

The success of the D-Day landings in WWII lies in the deployment of the *101st Mosh Gloves Division*, which circle-pitted through the ill-prepared Nazis during the extended breakdown of an early *Warzone* demo song.

Terror front-man *Scott Vogel* recently received an honorary PhD in Paleontology and Animal Behaviour, after publishing his recent findings: The *Tyrannosaurus Rex* compensated for its small arms by being the first dinosaur to craft mosh gloves. It has since been renamed *Moshasaurus Rex* and is believed to be the cause of the demise of the thunder lizards.

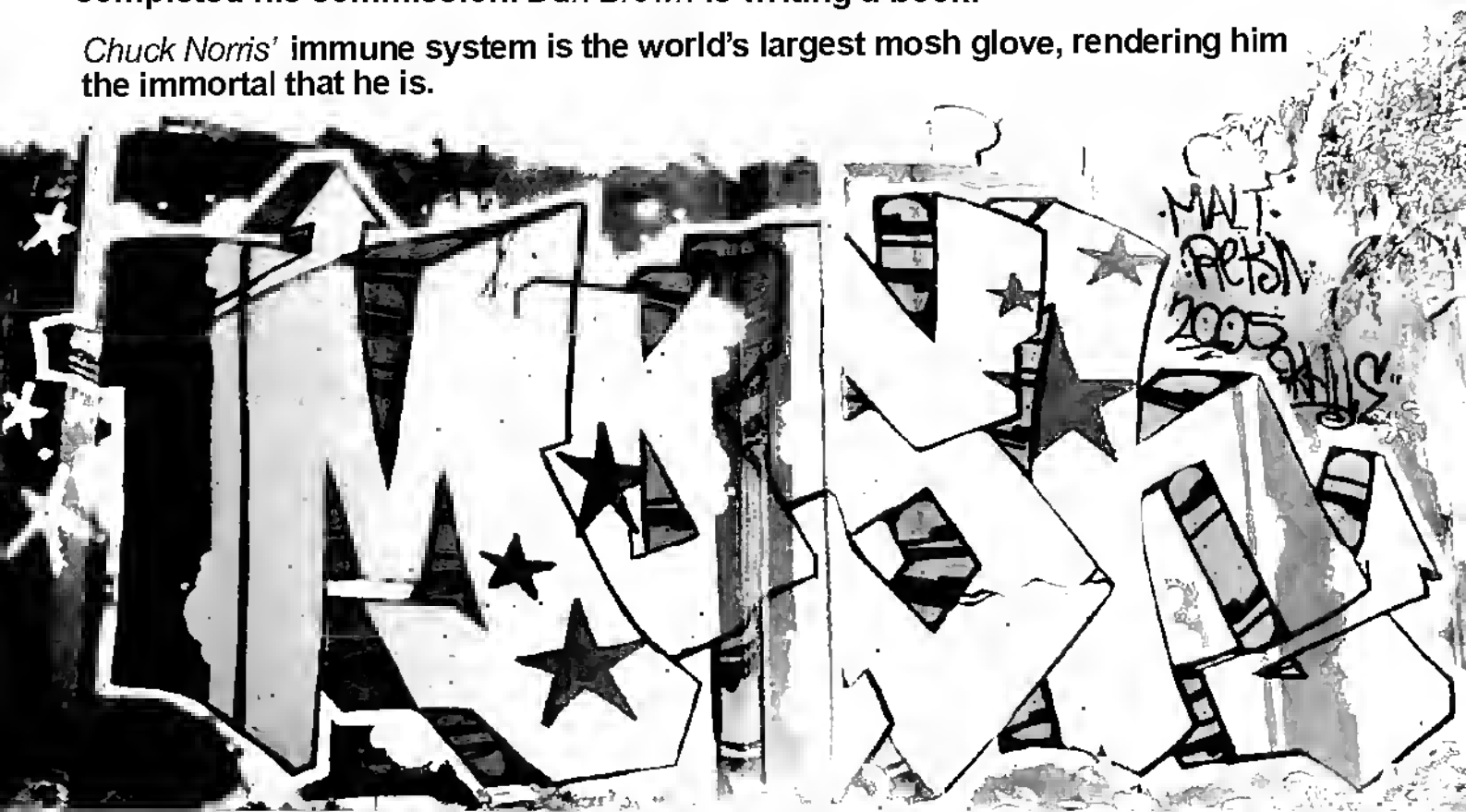
Scientists believe that a million-strong mosh gloved counterclockwise circle-pit is sufficient to cause a rift in the time/space continuum and allow time travel.

Wolverine's claws are not part of his mutation; they are his mosh gloves.

George Lucas recently revealed that the midichlorians, the microorganisms behind the Force in his popular *Star Wars* saga are actually 'highly evolved mosh gloves'. The prequel saga, it was further revealed, was conceived as an allegory of the late 1980s youth crew explosion, with the eventual decline of positive hardcore.

Recent restoration work on the *Sistine Chapel* ceiling paintings by *Michaelangelo* revealed that *God* wore mosh gloves and a *Bad Religion* t-shirt, while *Adam* had dreadlocks and a *Tragedy* shirt. These were 'photoshopped away' shortly after he completed his commission. *Dan Brown* is writing a book.

Chuck Norris' immune system is the world's largest mosh glove, rendering him the immortal that he is.





X ONE WAY X



X ONE WAY X is the coolest thing to happen to New Jersey since my Uncle Nick moved there in the 1980s. Other good things to come out of New Jersey are songs about how New Jersey sucks, Kevin Smith and Floorpunch. That's some stiff competition. In any case, our resident former edgeman, eX-ioannis-eX, can't stop listening to their stuff, so here is an exclusive interview with Kev (vocals) and Bill (guitar) via email/phone/telepathy. Lots of love to Bill for setting this up.

CZ: So, who's in X One Way X at the time?

Kev: Currently it's me, Bill, Dan, Figs, and Staytrue.

Bill: Speak for yourself. I quit just before this interview.

Kev: Hey, I have an opening in my band. Wanna join?

Bill: What instrument?

Kev: Most of them.

Bill: I'm in.

Kev: Now that I think about it we don't really have a bassist right now.

Bill: It doesn't really matter.

CZ: How long have you all been edge?

Bill: Kev's addicted to poker, so I don't really consider him edge.

Kev: Bill lost all his edge cred when he was in Thursday.

Bill: There's such a thing as edge cred? Dammit. I should've paid more attention.

Kev: We do have someone in the band named Staytrue, so it's hard to get more edge than that.

CZ: How did the band come together?

Bill: I don't know about Kev but I started it to get huge and make a shitload of money.

Kev: In reality it started as a joke in our college dorm room. It continues to be a joke as of today.

CZ: What do you guys do outside of this band?

Kev: Drugs!

Bill: (laughing)

CZ: I bought the self-titled X One Way X LP ...

Kev: I'm sorry to hear that.

CZ: ... and it was easily the funniest record I'd listened to in ages. What inspired you to make comedy straight edge record?

Kev: We just felt like hardcore bands take themselves too seriously and we wanted to have a bit of fun.

Bill: That was part of it. But really, ever since Floorpunch broke up, I thought the straight edge scene was in serious need of comedy.

CZ: X Aim For The Head X was one of my favourites off the LP. What are your favourite horror/zombie films?

Kev: Umm, that Bruce Campbell movie. Oh wait, no I like the Simon Pegg one. That was actually good.

Bill: Shaun of the Dead.

Kev: Yeah, yeah. I like that one!

Bill: Yeah, Kev's not too into horror films. That's more my thing. As far as the zombie genre goes, I'm really into the Evil Dead trilogy, Dead Alive, the 2004 remake of Dawn of the Living Dead. And Shaun of the Dead, of course. That film is pretty much perfect. Fido is pretty great too - Billy Connolly makes such a loveable undead man.

CZ: My mom likes Billy Connolly.

Kev: And I like your mom.

Bill: Wow.

CZ: Has Al Roker responded to any of your criticism?

Kev: I really think that Al Roker has seen this. It may seem cocky, but in reality I'm pretty positive that Al Roker sits at home and googles his own name, so I'm sure he knows about this. That's not even a joke answer. Seriously, I'm positive about this. But no, he hasn't contacted us.

Bill: Forget about the sudden worldwide economic crisis. If people outside the United States know who Al Roker is, the world is in far worse shape than I had thought.



CZ: Steven Hawking hasn't been down to any shows around Cambridge lately. Are you sure he's still edge?

Kev: (laughing) What a good question!

Bill: My mind is blown. I'm glad you've been keeping an eye out for him in his home country.

Kev: I can't even answer that. This dude is awesome.

CZ: I also got the split 12" you did with Youth Of Strength. How did that come about?

Bill: The same way everything comes about. Myspace! I think they may have found our Generic Hardcore song on there and contacted us to see if we wanted to do a split, and we are always up for that sort of thing so it came together quickly. This is actually the first split we've released, but we were supposed to do 2 or 3 others but the bands we were doing the splits with kept breaking up or selling out before they could record their songs.

Kev: We really wanted to find a way to infiltrate the European audience.

CZ: What does straight edge mean for you guys? Do you think there is a place for humour in something that can be as serious as straight edge or hardcore?

Bill: Absolutely not. There is no place whatsoever for humor in straight edge hardcore.

Kev: Street by street, block by block, taking it all back.

Bill: You're taking back the what now?

CZ: How does the jokey attitude to straight edge go down in the States? Is there been any confusion over your humour? Do you ever get FSU-types at your shows threatening to break your fingers with hammers?

Bill: We've had a pretty universally positive reaction to the humorous aspect of our music, actually. But we have had some bands that grumbled a bit when we would get a really good reaction at shows because they thought it was unfair for a joke band to get better crowd response than a serious band. They put in a lot of effort and feel gipped when jerks like us don't take anything seriously and can make fans quickly. But I don't think you can really blame us, since we don't even understand why anyone likes us.

Kev: Plus those other bands suck.

Bill: That is true.

Kev: People would probably be more angry at us if we actually played shows.

Bill: While we're on the topic of joke bands, we should probably point out that our drummer, Dan, played guitar in a much more hilarious band than One Way a long time ago. Look up the the music video for 'Cherry Bomb' by the band 1 plus 1 on youtube sometime. Mind boggling.

CZ: What are you favourite sXe bands?

Kev: Ensign, Youth of Today, Comeback Kid.

Bill: The Allman Brothers... Earth Crisis.

Kev: Path of Resistance

Bill: And 25 Ta Life.

CZ: What are your favourite joke bands?

Kev: Ensign, Youth of Today, Comeback Kid.

Bill: The Allman Brothers... Earth Crisis.

Kev: Path of Resistance

Bill: And 25 Ta Life.

CZ: How do you feel about DIY in punk/hc? Is it something done (if at all) out of habit, or something more purposeful?

Bill: I don't know, let me ask my agent. We'll get back to you.

Kev: I think DIY is important because no self-respecting promoter would ever book us.

CZ: *What future plans do you have for X One Way X?*

Bill: I plan on breaking up pretty soon.

Kev: First we have to write that double LP based on the episode of The Simpsons when Homer goes to Clown College.

Bill: Oh right. What would we have on a double LP? Like 230 songs?

Kev: More.

Bill: What are you doing next Saturday? I have 4 or 5 free hours, I think we can write all those.

Kev: No.

CZ: *I think you should; it would be almost as good as those early Anal Cunt 7"s!*

Kev: Why must you ask us for an interview and then insult us like this?

Bill: I think we've insulted us more than he has for the duration of the interview.

Kev: So true.

Bill: Perhaps some day we can aspire to release a record as critically acclaimed as "I Like it When You Die" - but I'm not getting my hopes up.

CZ: *Will we get to see you guys in Europe any time soon?*

Kev: Bill just went on vacation there. Did you see him?

Bill: I was probably hard to spot. I'm blonde and bearded, so I blend well into Scandinavia.

Kev: We probably won't be over there unless someone decides to fly us out.

Bill: Does your zine have five grand we can borrow? And by borrow I mean keep forever.

CZ: *We've blown all our cash on strippers, weed and cocaine for our 'zine launch party' next week. Will East Anglia's comfiest couch do?*

Bill: Is it a flying couch?

Kev: (laughing)

QUICK-FIRE QUESTIONS

CZ: *Vinyl or tapes?*

Kev: Vinyl.

Bill: Fried vegetable dumplings.

CZ: *Black Flag or Black Sabbath?*

Kev: Black Sabbath.

Bill: Sabbath with Ozzy. Sabbath with Dio gets second place. Black Flag takes fourth behind listening Ozzy mumble.

CZ: *Bad Brains or Bad Religion?*

Bill: Bad Religion is probably my favorite band ever.

Kev: Bad Religion. You realize Bad Brains isn't that good, right?

Bill: I certainly do.

CZ: *Han Solo or Indiana Jones?*

Kev: Han Solo.

Bill: I was going to say Indy, but Chewbacca is a marginally better sidekick than Short Round.

CZ: *Ray Cappo or Ian MacKaye?*

Bill: Ian.

Kev: Yep.

CZ: *Sharks or tigers?*

Kev: Tigers.

Bill: Tiger sharks.

CZ: *Simpsons or Family Guy?*

Kev: Simpsons by so much it's not even close. In fact, Simpsons is to Family Guy as Ian Mackaye is to Ray Cappo.

Bill: Hey! Remember Charles in Charge? Haha! There, I just wrote an episode of Family Guy. That said, the writing for Family Guy is still better than our lyrics.

X One Way X have released a 40-song self-titled 12" on Underground Communiqué and a split 12" with Youth Of Strength on X-Fist/Bosstuneage Records; both come with a bonus CD of all the songs.

myspace.com/xonewayx - undercomm.org - bosstuneage.com - billhenderson.org



ANOTHER GUIDE TO HATING PEOPLE

Ugh, if we can make through a year with a mention of the fucking **Sex Pistols**, I might be happy. I hope to fuck that they release a new record some time soon so it fucking bombs as bad as the GNR record so the punks give up on the Pistols, just like they gave up on the Exploited a few years back.

Switzerland recent passed a law to the effect of which heroin addicts can get government-sanctioned heroin, in order to help control the effects of addiction and update the legal system, yet at the same time voted against a law to decriminalise cannabis. Did IQ's suddenly drop while I was away fighting the Clone Wars? The main argument against cannabis was the fear of attracting cannabis tourism, not the impact on public health; I can understand objections on health grounds, but are they really that against fat Americans and English chavs stumbling around with their faces stuffed with Toblerone? Instead, they prefer to treat their thousands of pot smokers in their country like criminals (unlike heroin addicts, who statistically speaking are more likely to commit crimes to support their habit) and pass up on the opportunity to come off as more humane and rational folk, after that whole Nazi treasures bullshit went down last century. Does it really make that much sense making it easier to score horribly addictive substances over something far less harmful?

All of you dogmatic **religious folk** are twats. Those of you holding hands and dicks around trees dressed like paladins and elves are twats: stop trying to peddle your made-up bullshit as ancient wisdom. Those of you trying to make your religion 'hip and contemporary' are twats: you are not your god's PR to 'control popularity damage' and make him seem less of a cunt than s/he (or you) has already made her/him/yourself out to be. Those of you using your god as an excuse to be a twat are cunts: grow some hair on your balls and accept that nobody really gives a fuck about your fairy tales and thinks you're a cunt.

That new **G'N'R** record finally came out. I was planning on writing a review for it, but I really couldn't decide on what sentence best describes it, so here is my shortlist of reviews, which you can probably apply to 99.835% of metal records in existence:

People actually sold their soul to a goatgod to hear this record and are now stuck in Hell listening to this on repeat. I fucking love this record because at best it is as fucking horrible an idea like Ozzy mumbling through an entire Cheeky Girls covers record and at worse the aural equivalent of 5.8 Holocausts. Imagine if you've just survived a 'flu pandemic that kills off 99.95% of humans, leaving you and the Playboy bunnies, but you accidentally sliced your cock off making a chicken and bacon sandwich. For fans of Load, Reload and St. Anger by Metallica!

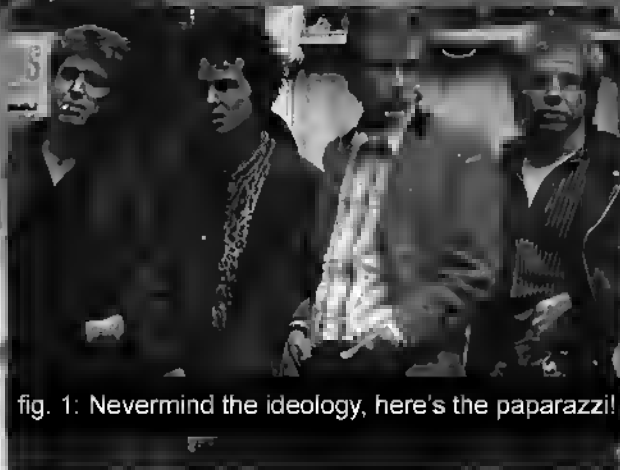


fig. 1: Nevermind the ideology, here's the paparazzi!



fig. 2: Nazis & junkies welcome



MOBILE PHONES:

"The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled" a rant by the smallest man

I thought it was the final straw. First one of the buttons breaks off for no obvious reason. Then all the phone numbers seemingly delete themselves (granted I was drunk when this happened but I'm drunk a lot of the time and it's not happened before). 'I've had enough' I said to myself, 'I just don't need one anymore'. But I do. We all fucking do. They've got us completely by the fucking bollocks. Want to find your mates out and about on Friday night? You need a mobile phone, anyone whose battery's died at the wrong moment knows that. Trying to chat someone up? You've got no chance if they've got no way to send you a text message, texting has made everyone too much of a pussy nowadays to talk in person at first. Need to fill a job application in or write a CV? It'll look pretty shit if you haven't got a mobile number. The worst thing is, we bend over and fucking take it, no one's making us pay stupid amounts of money for the privilege of a shitty flashing noise box that break after two months at the worst possible opportunity. The phone companies tricked us into it, they knew if they marketed hard enough and got the majority of us to own one, the rest of us would have no choice but to follow suit, like the arms companies during the Cold War, they're laughing all the way to the fucking bank and we just put up with it.

But 'waaaaaaahh' I hear you cry, 'the wonders of modern technology', 'it's so convenient to be able to get in touch with anyone anytime, I couldn't imagine living without one.' I might be showing my age here, but it's probably because you've never fucking tried to! A lot of kids nowadays have never known any different, they get one shoved in their hand and plugged straight into the hive mind when they're still young enough that the best thing they can think of to do with it is type '58008' on to the screen and turn it upside down and giggle at it. They even ask for them for Christmas for fucks sake, what a shit present to get. Everything worked fine before they came along, in fact it worked even *better*, people were actually on time to meet people instead of using a phone call en route as an excuse, and everyone knew where people were likely to be at a given time of day. Oh and by the way, everyone thinks you're a twat when you tell your boyfriend or girlfriend how much you wuv them on a bus full of people. 'Oooooohooooohh though, it's got an MP3 on it and a camera, it's so great' MP3?!?! Why the fuck does everyone have an iPod as well then? There's cameras on them now? Great, that'll give another chav cunt an excuse to go happy slapping. Not that he's got much else to do, he can't get a job due to his illiteracy from growing up thinking *dat dis iz da way 2 wryt jst lyk in txts n dat init*.

Besides it's not like we need any more surveillance on the streets of the UK, we've got more CCTV cameras per head than any other country in the world as it is, invading our privacy and turning us into paranoid wrecks without putting one in the hands of every moron walking down the street. And if that's not bad enough, new technology is making it possible to track the actual physical location of a mobile phone (check it out - www.world-tracker.com), and it doesn't take a huge leap of the imagination to picture the government combining it with the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (you know, the one that lets them lock anyone they feel like up for no reason and generally ignore your other civil liberties) and we have a pretty scary situation. And they're not even compulsory like the proposed ID cards were voluntarily carry the things around with us!

'Oh yeah and you said they break easily but it doesn't matter I get a new one when my contract runs out' Yeah to get you to sign back up you dimwit. And what kind of bullshit attitude is that to take anyway? What a load of consumerist shit. Fuck knows how much plastic, metal and chemical shit go in to making them, and then they just get thrown away after a year? You wouldn't take it if it happened to your television. But no, you want a new one so you can look trendy and have a better one than your mates, that's obviously WAAAY more important than global warming. 'Well yeah, but I send mine off for recycling anyway.' Oh great. You know what that means? They send it halfway round the world, pay someone in the second world fuck all to fix it, then send it further still to the third world and convince people who REALLY can't afford them that they need to sign up for one to look as cool as all the twats here in the first world do (imagine if they did that with foodstuffs, what a disaster it'd be if they did that with baby formula and it got mixed with dirty water and stuff and then they've got no money left to go to the doctor. Oh that already happens? (www.babymilkaction.org - READ IT), and then they donate a tiny percentage of their profits to a charity so that they come off smelling of roses.

So yeah, I think mobile phones are an insidious institution and one of the greatest examples of the power of marketing and advertising over the idiot general public there is. However I'm a hypocrite. I have a mobile phone. I want to rid myself of it but people need to group together. One person getting rid of their phone will get themselves nothing but social ostracism. If a large group of people in the same social circle all do it together, it might just work. From there on, it can only spread.

women always say that a sense of humor is a big turn-on, but that's a lie otherwise i'd be rolling in it because i think everything's funny

i laugh at crippled orphans, crack babies, homeless people who wear garbage bags for clothes, cancer survivors, the Holocaust, you name it.

yeah, it's hard to imagine why women aren't beating down your door.

and don't even get me started on burn victims. comedy gold.

Did you know... God prefers Atheists?

it's true.
i do.

Atheists solve their own problems instead of bothering God with them.

dear God, please get rid of my extra thirty pounds.

damn, i'd better do some sit-ups if i want to lose weight.

you just earned yourself a gold star!

Atheists are moral without the fear of spiritual retribution.

i don't steal because i'll go to Hell and burn for all eternity.

i don't steal 'cuz it's kind of a dick thing to do.

you just stole my heart!

and Atheists never use God's name to wage wars.

God promised this land to me!

um, see this land is a barely hospitable desert. i think i'm gonna just go live in Florida.

no, God promised this land to me!

you can use my timeshare in Boca Raton!



VODKA JUNIORS

Greece ain't really known for its exports in punk rock. A lot of the old bands went for British sounds, taking their cues from the likes of Crass, Discharge, the 'Pistols, Clash and Amebix. Then in the late 1990's the Vodka Juniors started playing their skate/thrash/punk around in Athens that I fell in love with. Make sure you check out their stuff, you can get it all for free from their websites...

So, introductions first, who does what in the band? How long have you been around for? How did you come up with 'Vodka Juniors'? Where there any other names you were considering?

Yo... We are Kostis, Orestis, Harry and Fudukis and about 7-8 more friends that all together make the core of the band. We travel, live, grow up and write music all together but us 4 take the credit. We spent 1 minute trying to find a name. We're not proud of it, it sucks but it's our name. We don't even like vodka unless there's nothing else available. When we studied in the UK about 8 years ago there were soccer matches every night on TV with Boca Juniors at 1-2 in the morning. That team could beat every other team on earth and we didn't even know one player. They played with their heart despite the huge amounts of money they got. We never thought we'd play more than 2 shows so we never really thought of the name but it was based on that team.

I downloaded your latest double record, 'Dark Poetry', which was a bit of a departure from your usual sound. What prompted you to go acoustic? How have the local kids responded to it? What about kids outside of Greece? Any other releases coming up?

Well we had been writing them for years in different occasions for fun or by ourselves without the rest of the band knowing. They just never fit into the records. We collected them all together and started recording without any plans of ever releasing them, just for fun after work... Our friends actually heard them and persuaded us to put them out. At first we thought we'd do it under another name but then we realised that this is who we are. This music and lyrics is our band. We like, play and write all kinds of music depending on how we feel at that period. Up to now everyone has taken it really cool...actually more than we ever thought. Especially the hardcore kids... All the punk and hardcore kids have a lot of rage and anger and this is the outcome of a lot of love and pain. We wrote music for the same people. It's just that this time we wrote about the love and the pain instead of the rage and the anger.



Side-projects seem to be all the rage at the moment, do you guys have any? What do you think of bands having side-projects? Do you they take away from the main band (like Metallica might suggest) or do they add more (like the Mr. Bungle/Faith No More/Tomahawk/etc guy does)? No we don't have side projects. We try to incorporate everything else we want to do in this band. I don't see how we can play in other bands. We have grown up together and we're best friends so the band is just a side project of our friendship. Even if we don't play or rehearse we still see each other faces everynight so it would be really difficult to reach such a level of understanding, commitment and relationship with anyone else. Its something that takes years to happen and usually it doesnt. We're just lucky we ended up together.

Whenever I've seen you guys live, no matter how drunk, you've always put on a pretty sweet show. What's the bizarrest thing that's happened to you guys on stage? What about injuries? Have anyone of you stage-dived head-first into a wall?

Well it took us years to understand that when you sing in a punk band you don't put your mouth in front of the microphone but about 10cm below. So in the beginning there were a lot of teeth broken because people would get on stage and hit the stands that crashed on our teeth. Now we have taken our lesson and usually avoid injuries. The most bizarre story that was actually caused by us is that once we played in a benefit for a DIY place in Athens that wanted to put an airconditioning system in the main area. Once we started playing we decided to take off a cloth for every 5 euro in the benefit box. We ended up playing completely naked but gathered some money!

What do you guys do outside of the band? Are you all lawyers and doctors? Do you guys still find time to skate?

No we don't sk8 anymore but we do surf a bit from time to time just for fun. We all have finished studying and currently work. Harris works in an indie record label in Greece, Orestis is a journalist, Fudukis is a Telecine Operator and Kostis is an Information Systems Engineer. We all work full time so we don't tour often and when we do it's usually in our vacation days. For example this Christmas we'll be touring in Italy, Austria, Germany, Belgium and Switzerland for a few days.

How do you feel about punk rock becoming the soundtrack to everything from bank adverts to NASCAR video-games, the places you'd least expect to find it? Does that mean punk has 'won', in some weird way?

We don't know and we don't really care to tell you the truth. There is the commercial part of music that is handled by corporations and there is the music as a form of art part that is created by each human being as part of a band or alone. Also thinking of punk other people consider it as a musical genre and others (ourselves as well) consider it as an attitude with respect to music as described above. For example I guess KLF was a punk band although they played dance music. In any case why would anyone have the need to be labeled punk or be labeled anything for that matter? We always thought that music should only be labeled as real, heart-felt and inspiring or plain fake and boring irrespective of genres.

Do you think politics have a place in music, or should it be "art for art"? Maybe something else? How would you feel if an organised political group or party found a vehicle in your music? Do you yourselves have a social or political agenda as a band? What did you make of Punkvoter. com, in light of G. W. Bush's re-election?

Music is a form of expression so people that want to politically express them selves they have the right to do it. Sometimes we feel the need to do it as well and we do use our music but I wouldn't say that we are a political band and our band is not a political statement. I guess we consider our selves as socially aware. We don't belong in any groups or actively participate in political parties but we work on our own to try and make this world a better place and sometimes participate in specific events that we think have an important message. We're not fans of organisations as our belief is that anything organised can be controlled where as individual unorganised acts is impossible to face. As far as punkvoter goes we don't know enough about it so it would be wrong to say something good or bad.

Recently mainstream rock bands like Radiohead and Nine Inch Nails have been going on about the death of 'the record label' and have announced their intentions to go 'DIY', with questionable and varied results with mp3s. How do you feel about the switch to (apparent) more 'DIY-friendly' tactics and does the DIY scene gain or lose anything from such exposure of its ideals? Why did you prompted you to give your newest record out for free through the Internet?

Well we never really believed in the presence of a DIY scene with ideals in the sence of a materialised organisation. We always thought of DIY as the result of common sense. How can you let anyone take charge of your creativity? Anyway we hate the term DIY. As we describe in some previous answers we don't like any kind of term that is used to collectively identify groups of people or bands. We believe in the uniqueness of everyone. In that sense I don't see how Radiohead giving a record for free has anything to do with music or the rest of the music world. There have been bands giving their art for free for ages. I like the stuff that Radiohead do from time to time but I don't see any connection with DIY. As for our new record the reason we gave it for free (we also gave the hardcopies for free as well) was because we wanted it to be available to everyone.



You guys are also involved with Cannonball 666 Records. Can you give us a brief history of the label and its goals? How easy is it to operate an independent punk label in Greece? What have been the major challenges so far?

Cannonball Records is not a real label. We don't have a roster and we don't really pay for records that bands put out. It is a group of friends that put out their records on their own and just pretend there really is a label by putting the same logo on the back. From time to time we meet people that share some of the same musical interests and beliefs or that we feel they do something real and we invite them to join us. We don't offer anything to them than just a network of friends that works to help out with covers, shows, flyers etc... Running such an independent label in Greece is the easiest thing since you have nothing to achieve and no goals to go after. You're already where you want by definition, haha...

You are one of the few Greek punk/hc bands that have toured outside of Greece. Why is it so hard for Greek bands to make it outside of Greece? What have been the preconceptions people have had about Greek punk outside of Greece? What are some of the weirdest places you've played?

The Balkans have been really affected by many wars over the years. Touring in east Europe used to be extremely difficult and sometimes dangerous. Since the late 1990s things are getting better and bands are starting to travel to the north and the other way around as well. The other way could be going with a boat to Italy or flying out but this is very expensive. I guess if you leave in Germany for example you can play every weekend in a different country only with a 5 hours drive for some gas money. The most bizzare place we've played was at a pizza house while people were eating pizza... not that bizzare but it was funny!





I've been away from Greece for about 8 years and I'm constantly finding out about new bands and demos flying around. What new bands from Greece would you recommend someone visiting looks into?

Greece has some amazing bands like Sun of Nothing (sludge), Censored Sound (old school hc), Skaribas (ska punk), Planet of Zeus (Stoner rock), Vitapeis (Hiphop), Bad Movies (Punk rock) and I can write many more lines so lets just say that a look on myspace won't let you down!

In Greece you've played with many huge internationally-touring bands (like Agnostic Front, Propagandhi, Lagwagon, Therapy? etc...). Which of those shows was the most memorable one? Any funny stories? Any band full of assholes? Feel free to dish any dirt or vent your frustrations here!

Haha i won't say anything bad! The most memorable show was probably with Propagandhi 'cause they are a band we respect a lot and always wanted to play show with. It was a sold out show in a small club in the middle of the summer with 50 degrees inside. Sweat was dripping from the ceiling. Unbelievable atmosphere. What we never expected is that Therapy was the coolest most down to earth band we've met all this time.

Favourite Black Flag Singer?
Don't have a favorite.

Bad Religion or Bad Brains?
Bad Religion at home, Bad Brains live!

Manowar or Maiden?
None although once we did a punk rock cover of 'Fear Of The Dark'

Who would win in a fight: Indiana Jones or Han Solo?
Don't know...

Who drinks the most in your band?
We don't really drink anymore.

Who is more likely to 'find God', retire from music and become a monk up in the mountains?
I guess that would be Kostis. It's actually happening as we speak.

What's a better shot, tequila or sambuca?
Tequilla wirh sabuka.

What's the best Vodka mixer?
We don't drink that much vodka, but I think the deadliest is vodka Red Bull with a shot of espresso... and this summer it was mainly vodka with lightly carbonated apple juice in some occasions.

Any final words?
Thank you so much! We appreciate your interest about our band and giving us a stand to express our views! Just to let you know if we didn't have problems with flying we would have come there to play live already... We'll get over this and hopefully come there really soon to party together cause its almost 6 years since last time!

Q's: B5K Photos: from the Internet. *Vodka Juniors have released 2 EPs and two full-length CDs, all of which come with lyrics, awesome inserts and other sweetness. You can peep all of it on their websites for free. Their video for 'Rollercoaster' has footage from their show at the Junction in Cambridge from waaaaaaay back.*

fuckoff@cballrec.com - darkpoetry.wordpress.com
www.vodkajuniors.com - www.myspace.com/vodkajuniors



1.



2.



4.



photos by tim reynolds
1. zebrahead
2. the plight
3. the beatstrokes
4. poison the well

FANS=CVNTS

bobatron <3

1. You know your idol is infallible.
2. You know more about your idol than yourself.
3. You own the same record in more than two formats.
4. You buy records in obsolete formats.
5. Your fashion sense is dictated by a record cover.
6. Your tattoos reflect your playlist.
7. You can't handle suicide without your favourite song.

I do not like people being in the position to manipulate me. I do not appreciate people who assume they know what is better for me interfering with my life. That sort of reliance and influence can and will often lead to exploitation. In the case of religion, God is this being or entity that, for whatever reasons as a human being I will never comprehend, will control my life, throw obstacles, make the whole experience a struggle and ingrain the notion into my thick skull that free-will is inherently evil. Why am I supposed to be praying to this again? In politics and economics you will find pretty much the same patterns: you pay your taxes, you send your kids (or drag yourself) to war, you pay some more taxes, you bust your ass at some 9-to-5 until your heart packs in, out of fear of being marginalised and dying at some old people's home or cardboard box in your own shit and piss. Why am I supposed to be supporting this way of life? You get the picture. Think for yourself and don't take anything for granted.

Now, when it comes to music, it's the same sheepish mentality I find in 'serious' aspects of life (like the aforementioned religion and politics) that I have very little time for. More specifically it's the audience-stage dynamic that I cannot stand. I think it's pretty lame when artists will put themselves on a pedestal, under the assumption they are somehow of a better quality than everyone else. What I find even lamer is when people will fall for that sort of ego-driven bullshit and allow others to put themselves on pedestals to be worshiped, to give meaning to their own lives. The sort of people who fall into that trap are the sort of people who find themselves manipulated by cults and by cults I mean the ones you end up drinking arsenic-laced Kool-Aid in a field, not the 'lets hold hands around a tree and play D&D' social gatherings types.

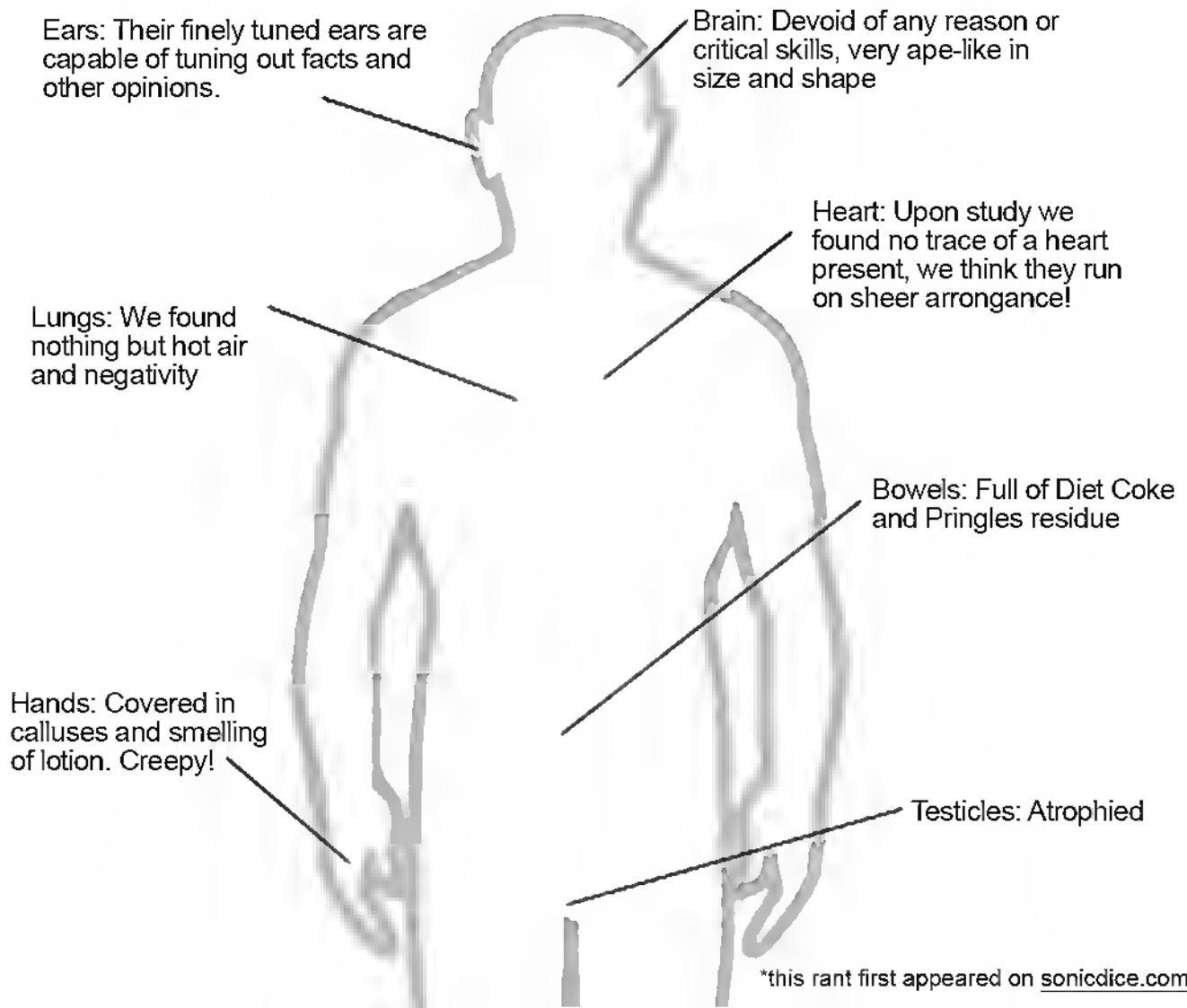
Look at the Beatles, arguably the biggest pop group ever (if the mainstream music press is anything to go by) and the amount of crap they got into because of their fans and people somehow connected to their music and mythology. Yes, I'm talking about Chuck Manson, that crazy guy who capped Lennon and all their hysterical female fans that congregated outside airports and hotels. The common thread I see is their susceptibility to absorbing the sort of PR bullshit they were all fed at the time by the media and the band themselves, mostly about their awesomeness, sex appeal, charisma and the dwarfing of the Christ. I doubt the Beatles' intentions were to inspire mentally unstable people to go on murder sprees, but they sure sold a fuck load of records to hysterical teenagers. If you tell people enough how awesome you are, eventually they will fall for it and after you do that, you can sell them whatever it is you're selling. In any case, there are a million assholes out there who want nothing more than to be worshiped and it's a lot easier to make a career of it in music than claiming to be the Messiah or becoming the dictator of war-torn nation.

Underground music, before it starts getting mainstream coverage, on the other hand, has less of that fan bullshit. On a practical level, this is largely due to the significantly smaller number of people involved. The smaller number of people means that everyone ends up knowing each other, so rather than having a faceless audience of ticket-holders, the band has an audience of friends and acquaintances; they are more like equals, by simply being there and supporting something new. Call me a naïve, but I like to think that you are less likely to fuck someone over if you know them. On an ideological level, underground or alternative subcultures have the very real potential to act like medieval carnivals. In those carnivals, social structures and norms were totally reversed: guys would dress like girls, girls like guys, the poor would run around like kings for the day, the rich would roll in shit, everyone forgot their religious fears and got bombed and had the biggest gang bang ever. There's a bit of dramatisation there, but that was generally the idea of it before the Church went 'No' and it got colonised by the capitalist interests. Alternative and underground subcultures will often reverse certain aspects of mainstream and pop culture. That's why rock addressed racism, heavy metal religious oppression, punk rock homophobia and so forth. And that's why you're not going to hear Britney or Christina sing about anything risqué like the World Trade being a death-machine or Jesus being a cunt.

It was all pretty sweet being into punk and hardcore in the 1980s and 1990s for a while. After the Pistols and Clash finally died the fuck out, the culture industry kinda gave up on picking up on the whole Exploited scene and invested in New Wave as the future of 'punk' as a commodity. So we had Black Flag, Dead Kennedys and Minor Threat taking it back to its roots, without a lot of the poser bullshit that came with the brightly-coloured mohawks. Up until Nirvana fucked it up for everyone again. Nirvana are largely credited for 'opening boundaries' and 'expanding horizons' or whatever it is their press releases and mainstream media agree to these days. What that basically translates as is that it was time again for the record companies to rape and pillage what underground music scenes existed because the last two wells (glam rock and techno) were dangerously drying out and they don't want be caught out. So after relentless radio and video airtime, idiots across the world found a brand new (?) fad to latch on to and brought all their misery to it and the rest is history. Going to shows back then you could tell who discovered 'moshing' from the '...Teen Spirit' video (who'd also latch onto the next 'big thing') and who figured it out for themselves. Fans reared their ugly face as guitars became popular once again.

A fan, short for fanatic, is someone who never thinks and merely follows, nothing more than a pawn or foot-soldier. They are like worker ants in a colony; they move around a lot, look like they have a purpose and some serious business to attend to, but in reality they are simply working on automatic because they know no better. Unlike ants however, which are manipulated by pheromones, fans are manipulated by their base emotions, by being kept in a state of emotional distress. A fan will listen to some ballad rock and think that every song was written about themselves, putting themselves in that same emotional state over and over again. One of my favourite theorists, Theodor Adorno, wrote about this around the time Nazis started busting heads and jazz was all that and pretty much nailed it when he claimed that *'they [the consumers of popular music] consume music in order to be allowed to weep'* and that *'one who weeps does not resist any more than one who marches'*. That is something that the Joseph Goebbels was more than aware of and as Minister of Propaganda in Nazi Germany made it his mission to control culture and art. Hell, look at how fashion trends get passed on from pop-stars to their fans and from then on to popular culture as a whole. What's to stop potential harmful ideology getting transmitted in that way? I'm not going to claim to know which is harmful and which not, but would Hitler be sporting a fringe if he were around today? You can bet your Project X test-pressing he would. Don't be a tool.

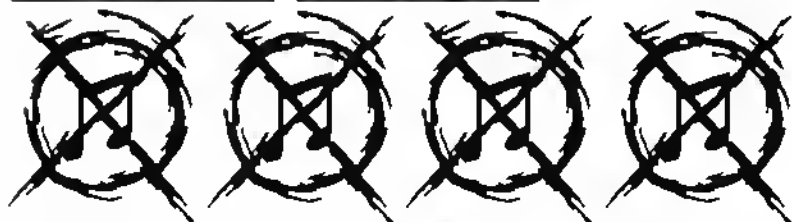
FANBOY ANATOMY



'ZINE + BOOK REVIEWS

Don't strain your brain and take our word about what's good to read on the shitter, on your way to school/work and with a cup of hot vegan chocolate before you go to bed in the evening. We are totally straight up dudes. You should be able to find all of these on the Internet, a wonderful, new technological wonder, via the websites mentioned. The books are also likely to be found in most major book-stores too.

BEAT MOTEL #8 (£1.50 A5) I remember Andrew Culture from the punknews.co.uk forum, which a few years back I remember was quite popular with UK bands and scenes. The forum was starting to look a bit like punknews.org as I eventually lost interest in it. Andrew struck me as an intelligent dude who's been around for a while. This massive zine of his is near-legendary; tons of pages, an incredible amount of reviews, loads of interesting and funny articles and rants, you needn't ask for more from a 'zine! Andrew also does a massive 'zine distro, so make sure you line this dude's pockets with gold. www.beatmotel.co.uk / www.comdog.co.uk.



WAKE UP AND LIVE #8 (2€ A4) Diogo used to sing in Pointing Finger, arguably one of the coolest European youth crew bands in the past 10 years. His 'zine is what you'd expect, i.e. lots of pro-straight edge and positive ideas. This issue has interviews with *The First Step*, *Have Heart*, *Birds Of A Feather*, *Wise Up* and more, a few columns with his and friends' thoughts and a good deal of zine and record reviews. Pretty cool photos too! www.myspace.com/wakeupandlive

Evolution of a Cro-Magnon by John Joseph

The *Cro-Mags* are the type of band that I never got into because of a sketchy discography, along with *Sick Of It All*, *Bad Brains* and the *Misfits*. I also vaguely remember reading about the harsh words exchanged between Joseph and Harley and accusations of theft etc. I first came across an audio-book version of this book and decided to give it a go. After about 5 minutes of listening him read, I was totally hooked. The autobiography describes in great detail his life, which comes off like a mash-up of *Kids*, *Goodfellas* and *Sleepers*, all filtered through segments of *American Hardcore*. I had no clue how rough his upbringing was and the amazing circumstances that brought him where he is, so it was a real eye-opener in an unknown side of his that never really made the headlines as much his squabbles with Harley. I bought the book version which is more complete and it covers in greater detail some of the key events that influenced his life, but crucially his dealings with the ISKCON. You would be amazed as to how corrupt the Krishnas have been in the past. I can understand how it all lead Joseph to become spiritual, but I am somewhat disgusted by the cult-like aspect that inevitably all religions seem to succumb to. I can't even begin to explain how essential this read is, so do yourself a favour and hop along to www.punkhouse.com to pick up a copy for yourself. Do it. Now.

A SHORT ZINE ABOUT ROCKING #23 (£1 A5) This 'zine is now based in London, formerly from the North. To put it bluntly, they are the closest thing to a 'DIY' Kerrang. They seem to cover a load of mainstream bands, both in interviews and reviews with the same enthusiasm they cover a load of underground bands. Personally speaking, I think most of these bands get enough/loads of exposure in mainstream press, so why not focus on the little bands? Answer: Because this is a fanzine and you right about things you are a fan of (without being a cunt). These guys like mainstream-sounding bands. Nonetheless, many of the interviews are in-depth, some of them further blessed by interesting answers, so if you ever cared about bands like the Deftones or As I Lay Dying, you should look into some older issues while you're at it. If you like mainstream bands, you might get a kick out of this. www.myspace.com/ashortfanzineaboutrocking.

The Taqwacores by Michael Muhammad Knight

This novel is about a group of Muslim punk rockers. I also found out that this novel inspired a load of bands to form a Muslim punk/rock scene, which is pretty crazy when you think about it. This was both entertaining as a punk exploitation read, as well as an eye-opener since it deals with the clash of punk ideology and Islam. If you thought the Krishnacore kids were weird, you haven't read this! Apparently woman-led prayer is a taboo in Islam and this book was one of the first to deal with that concept. Knight is considered a heretic by orthodox Muslim authorities, which adds to the charm of his writings. I hear there is a sequel in the making. Totally recommended for anyone who would like to know more about Islam and how/if Muslim kids can rock out. www.autonomedia.org

The Anti-Matter Anthology by Norman Brannon

This book collects all the interviews from Anti-Matter, a 'zine by Norman Brannon who used to play in a load of bands in the 1990s. Everyone from Ian MacKaye and Mike Judge to *Samiam*, *Sick Of It All* and *Shelter* are to be found here. The interviews are in-depth, dealing with many personal issues, rumours and ideas of everyone involved, giving you the impression that you are eavesdropping in on a chat over a cup of tea and biscuits or a couple beers. As a result you get a better idea about everyone involved on a personal level, instead of the typical "how's the tour, when's the new 7" out?" crap. My favourite bit was Porcell talking about the time he broke edge and smoked a lot of pot when he went to see Morrissey. Do you want to know more? Yes, you do. www.revelationrecords.com

MILD PERIL #12 (£1 A5) Proudly reprazentin' Norwich, Mild Peril is quickly becoming a favourite of mine to pick up at shows. Written mostly by Dean and Pete, this zine is musically closer to what used to be the Fat/Epitaph/Lookout sound, namely good-time punk rock that flirts with skate, pop, ska and a bit of the 'core. This time around they interview *Chris Murray*, *Cutting Class*, *The Hijacks*, *Sounds Of Swami*, *The Yoochoos*, *Faintest Idea*, *The Murderburgers*. Quite a few rants on punk subjects and opinions, gig and record reviews kept me interested. Props for reviewing our first issue, I'm sure both these two dudes must be Norwich legends by now! You can find more information and their distro list at www.myspace.com/mildperilzine.

JESUSXCORE #3 (£1.50 A5) This zine has, as you might have figured out, a Jesus edge going on. I'm not going to argue about their belief in relation to hardcore (relevant rant elsewhere in 'zine). This 'zine covers what I would call 'horrible commercial hardcore', i.e. the watered down bullshit like emo, screamo, poppy metalcore and all that shit. Unsurprisingly most interviews and articles make reference to Jesus and spirituality. I get the feeling they are trying to suggest that Christians can rock and therefore it comes off as a bit of a recruitment brochure; all this lacks is a Christ's Seal of Approval on their cover. The print quality is awesome, but they fucked up with resolutions and layouts, so some text is ridiculously tiny, pictures are pixelated or blurred and some of the pages look like a right mess. I'd only recommend this to people who want a legitimate purpose to make fun of Christians for their musical tastes. www.myspace.com/jesusxcoremagazine.

The Day The Country Died by Ian Glasper

All things considered, anarchism I feel is the one political ideology that makes most sense to represent or engage with punk music. Perpetual revolution and short bursts of focused anger kind of fulfill each other, yeah? You can somewhat picture 19th Century political/social theorists like Bakunin and Nietzsche 'getting' Crass or Tragedy. See, if I had a time machine I'd go back to the 1800s with a collection of hc, crust and dub to hang with them. We'd listen to tunes all day and talk about how the world is fucked and the Nazis are going to be fucking horrible. It would be like *Back To The Future I* meets *Battle Royale II* meets *Star Wars Episode III*. Did I mention we'd all have red lightsabers too? Ian Glasper (from *Terrorizer*) wrote a fucking awesome book that anyone who has the slight interest in the capacity of music to convey political ideology should read. Beyond the pseudo-politics of current mainstream rock bands like U2 and Green Day, people should be aware that there used to be a crop of artists who put their money where their mouth was. www.cherryred.co.uk.

Yeah! Get some, motherfucker who looks slightly similar to the guy standing nearby when that IED blew up three hours ago! YEAH! You want some too uninvolved woman with bags?



THIS IS BOSTON, NOT BOSTON (£1 A5): This zine is a 'split' one-off zine done by the guys behind *Gadgie*, *Initonit*, *Itchy Bum*, *Rum Lad* and *Uglyman Punk Rock*, all of which are based (or somehow connected by) Boston UK. I'd heard of a couple of these zines and liked the cover, so it seemed like a sweet deal. I attempted to read it after a heavy night of drinking and partying and found it interesting, albeit a bit too text-heavy. I can understand that you need to get a lot crammed in there, but what's the point in making you strain your eyes? I liked the illustrations that are used throughout the zine, as they break up those blocks of tiny text. The zine itself is a tribute to the Boston scene all these dudes are involved with, pretty cool for anyone not from there. It would be awesome if every scene/city put out a 'year-book'/compilation type zine like this one. I didn't notice any contact details, but I'm sure I saw it for sale on www.comdog.co.uk a short while back.



So to answer your original question, Ramirez, if it's even real, intel believes the G-spot is located here, south of the guard towers and near the barracks. But command isn't concerned with **her** orgasm.

LIGHTS GO OUT #3 (£1 A5): I picked this one up at the *Vanilla Pod* show at the Man On The Moon in November, along with *This Is Boston, Not Boston*. This punk 'zine covers an interesting variety of bands. Some I used to love (*Ten Foot Pole*), others I would partially like to destroy with my penis (*Civet*) and others I had no clue about (everybody else). There are quite a few columns, reviews and rants peppered through the entire thing making it an entertaining read if you get in their mindset. Some of it I didn't get, but it still seemed to entertain me. The text I think is a bit too small though; perhaps they should go A4 or add more pages. I gather this is Ipswich-based, which seems to have produced some pretty sweet 'zines, *Beat Motel* (which is also interviewed here) being the first that comes to mind. It goes without saying that if you're into localised punk you should be picking this up. www.myspace.com/lightsgooutpunkzine.

C'mon everybody! We're fed up of yelling the same shit over and over again! SEND US YOUR SHIT FOR US TO TALK SHIT ABOUT! We're already working on issue #3, so you know we're legit and not out to hustle people for freebies.

THEY ARE SHORT, THEY ARE SWEET, THEY ARE...

ONE-SENTENCE REVIEWS

NOFX - Don't Call Me White EP: I finally got this and just looking at it makes me very very happy.

Crime In Stereo - Selective Wreckage: Why the fuck does Bridge Nine release this hair-cut altemarock now and again, I will never know for sure.

Mouthwash - True Stories: Words cannot express how good this is, so here is a picture of tits.

Ruiner - I Heard These Dudes Are Assholes: I also heard these motherfuckers know how to write amazing shit.

United Nations - United Nations: Surprisingly good screamo/grind from dudes who wear their jeans *real* tight.

Vitamix X - Pissed Off: If you are a straight edge thrash/hardcore band from the Netherlands you rule by default.

X One Way X & Youth of Strength split LP: Just as good as a Project X / Minor Threat split 12" can be!

Facedown Records - Something Worth Fighting For: Figure Four and Comeback Kid are OK, but I really don't agree or care for the whole Jesus Core bullshit this label seems to get high off.

True Colors - Perspective 7": I can't think of another band that has mastered the Cappo Yell this well, can you?

Star Fucking Hipsters - Until We're Dead: I should be getting tired of the same old crusty ska shit the Stza has been forcing upon everyone who is willing to listen for two seconds since 1993, but, surprisingly, I'm not.

Fucked Up - The Chemistry of Common Life: This is what Black Flag would probably sound like if they were Canadian and didn't spectacularly begin to ruin their once-solid discography in 1984.

Annelids - Binomial Nomenclature: Bill Henderson has a talent at making awesome music out of genres I don't really like that much.

Metallica - Death Magnetic: C'mon, who really gives half a shit about what these fucking has-beens are angry about these days?

Cold World - Dedicated To Babies Who Came Feet First: Empirical proof that hip-hop hardcore fusion bands not only fucking rule, but aren't as horrible as Rage Against The Machine or Limp Bizkit.

Moral Dilemma - Right To Remain Silent: Male/female vocals, a song titled 'Walking Through Ashes' and a black and white cover, with a cop, what else do you need to figure out what this London band sounds like?

Χαρμάνης - Κομμάτια Λάσκα: Ωραία όλα αυτά, αλλά που είναι ο γαμημένος Δεύτερος Τόμος ρε καριόλια;

xBishopx - Drugs: This would probably rule by 38% more if they used Lance Henriksen clips between songs.

Danny Diablo - Thugcore 4 Life: This could have been a Skarhead or Crown Of Thorns compilation, b-sides or remix record and you wouldn't know the difference...

Knuckledust - Promises Comfort Fools: The LBU powerhouse just brought that London-stylee mosh to town.

Hammer Bros - The Kids Are Dead: Yeah, bitch, this is real Koopa-bustin' bandana thrash for the kids.

Arnocorps - The Greatest Band Of All Time: Austrian Death Machine is "Terminator 2", Arnocorps is "Raw Deal".

Failsafe - The Truth Is...: ...that this band would probably rule 33% more if they carried on playing a bit of ska.

The Problemaddicts - The Dark Side of Oz: Imagine if Wendy smoked a blunt or four, dropped some acid and decided to stay inside with her peeps to watch Pink Floyd videos instead of fucking with some old Witch, yeah?

Τσαμπίκος - Μέχρι Εδώ: Αξίζει μόνο και μόνο για τον στίχο 'Παραλίγο το Παγκράτι, να γινότανε Βαγδάτη'.

Zebrahead - Phoenix: Probably the sleeper hit of the year that about 43 people world-wide will really appreciate for the trips down memory lane.

Deez Nuts - Stay True: The second I heard this, I felt like wearing a doo-rag in the pit was the best thing ever.

Can't Decide - Can't Decide EP: More of the same melodic hardcore that everyone used to go nuts over in 1997.

Stigma - New York Blood: You could try imagining Vinny Stigma singing on the best parts of "Something's Gotta Give", "Dead Yuppies" and "One Voice" or you could simply put this on.

Born From Pain - Survival: Yeah yeah, even more NYHC-worship from some funny-sounding Euro-types...

Conquest For Death - Front Row Tickets To Armageddon: Bandana-thrash is empirical proof that punks and hardcore kids are better at playing metal than metal kids can.

Trash Talk - Trash Talk: Nevermind this band, we already have one Ceremony, we don't really need another...

Internal Affairs - Dalek EP: Short, sweet and straight to the point, is there any reason not to love this band?

Deal With It - End Time Prophecies: This has all the qualities to be mislabeled as a 'lost' Cro-Mags record by alien archeologists in the distant future, after mankind blows itself to oblivion and loses the intergalactic war.

Black Ships - Omens: Bleak, angry, decaying and glorious on an epic scale.

Jedi Mind Tricks - A History of Violence: So really, how come these guys haven't been sued by Lucas yet?

Down To Nothing - Hem Hem EP: I'm totally starting to dig their shit, but I still can't sit through an entire LP.

Razor's Edge - Thrashing Goes Lovely: They sound like a Japanese Ramones-obsessed pop/punk band failing miserably at Choking Victim covers.

DVDs:

Reaching Forward - Final Show: Probably the best youth crew from Amsterdam other than Vitamin X.

N.Y.H.C.: This badboy got re-released with a TRILLION extras, so make sure you pick this up and force it upon anyone talking shit about the 'core.

Zeitgeist: Holy shit, I am certain that if Marty McFly got a hold of this DVD and took it back to 1984 and gave it to Crass, they would still be around.

Threat: Edge kids fighting gangstas with knives in NYC and a script that reads like a Larry Clark film (Kids, Bully), it's all here yo.

Zeitgeist Addendum: This too **really** blew my mind and I'm certain that if Marty McFly took it back to 1851 and gave it to Bakunin, by now we'd be living in some sort of utopia with cold fusion and eternal peace.

Champion - Different Directions: The show is mental, the picture & sound quality are mental and the lack of any real bonus material is mental.

Atom And His Package - Hair: *Debatable*: The only thing worth buying that Hopeless Records has released since the Common Rider album.

DEMO REVIEWS

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO BOBATRON 5K

Jaguar\$ - Demo 2008: First off, this band is not to be confused with the Lockin' Out band Jaguarz. In fact, apart from the name, there are very few similarities between the two. This band of dudes and a dudette are on a total Hatebreed/Most Precious Blood trip. I am not sure what the hell it is they sing about, but from the sounds of it I get the impression it's mostly about personal relationships, keeping it real, being yourself despite the odds and not coping well with betrayal or being let down. That sorta thing. The music at times goes a bit too heavy for my likings, approximating what everyone used to call 'metalcore' in the 1990s when 'emo' wasn't as dirty a word. Now I sound like Abe Simpson, enough! The mosh parts are heavy, the tempos are steady, so you should know if you need this or not. myspace.com/sactojuarars

Rearranged - Demo: Now that Russia is quickly becoming the next super-power, it's only natural that their society become fucked up enough to start producing some bitching hardcore; before you bitch about being ignorant, think about this: would Agnostic Front, Black Flag or the Dead Kennedys exist if the world they grew up in was nice and just? Fuck no. Rearranged come from Moscow, sing in English and are demanding your attention. Youth crew sounding hardcore (not sure if they're an edge band) that draws heavily from the classics like Youth Of Today and Dag Nasty equally. No Cappo Yell though. The production is shithot too, for a demo. It's very unlikely I'll get to see these guys rip it up in East Anglia, but you never know. If they do end up thrashing it up though, I'll be drunk fool throwing shapes in mosh armor. Get this badboy for free from myspace.com/rearrangedhc

The Dead Batteries - Failing At D.I.Y.: I've seen the Dead Batteries a couple times rip it up at the Man On The Moon in Cambridge and eventually got drunk enough to pay the 50p this demo costs, which works out to 5p per track. I don't think iTunes can beat that any time soon. This Ipswich trio like their D-Beat and they like their crust, so it's pretty safe for you to come to the conclusion as to what they sound like. Lyrically they don't seem to be treading any new water either. On the positive side though, they are good at crafting songs that are absolutely singalongable. This record contains three demos, two of which are labeled as EPs. You won't really listen to this that much, but you will know a good time is ahead of you when they're on a bill at a show you're at. myspace.com/thedeadbatteries

Wild By Heart - Demo 2008: Come on yo, what's up with this heavy heavy hardcore shit? I'm sick and tired of bands trying to sound like Hatebreed. It's been like fucking years since that shit was funny. Hell, even Terror are trying to sound less like Hatebreed and they made a fucking career out of it. These Russian kids don't offer anything new or fresh to a stagnant-sounding scene, so unless they are your local band, related to them or simply friends, I can't imagine anybody will appreciate this or give a shit. myspace.com/wildbyhearthc

Pledge - Burning Bridges Demo 2008: Even more awesome youth crew sounding hardcore, with an awesome guitar sound that sounds like it was recorded 26 years ago in a makeshift recording 'studio' by someone burnt out on angel dust. Another classic to make you realise that you should be straight edge, if only for the righteous sounding music that makes your every move in the pit articulate an ever-increasing frustration, rooted in an understanding of the world not compatible with the social norms. Yes, this sit the stuff that will get you out of bed and pumped to really want to break down walls around, without the compromise of sugar-coated melody. Just brutal mosh. myspace.com/pledgexxx

Wise Up - Holding On Strong: Pointing Finger were one of the best European youth crew bands ever and that's something you can't really argue against. Songs like 'Best Bruises' and 'Transcend' are nothing short of epic. I was gutted when they broke up as I was hoping for a sequel to their only full-length. Diogo, their singer is currently focusing on the excellent Wake Up And Live 'zine. Anyway, Wise Up comes from Portugal and features a couple dudes from Pointing Finger and offers up a similar brand of edge-inspired melodic hardcore. I think the Bold-derived name adequately summarises this band's 'progression' from the Pointing Finger sound to a broader, rockier-yet-still-crucial-hardcore sound. I dig this. myspace.com/wisexup

LOCAL RECORDS

Every band was once a 'local band' that everybody thought was a fucking joke and wouldn't ever make it on MTV one day... Fuck big fish in a small pond. Hopefully none of these bands will ever be on MTV, but (also) hopefully they will continue to rock the local dives. Support your local (hardcore) bands, yeah?

I.C.H. - You Won't Like It

There is little that can be said about I.C.H that doesn't sound like a brown nose as they're just plain and simply an amazing UK punk band. The Colchester-based punks are possibly one of the best punk acts in the UK at the moment and have rightly been offered a spot to play the prestigious Rebellion punk festival 2009 in August! I have been to many of the Cambridge shows, and one that will always stick in my mind and the minds of many others was where they, for some reason or another found themselves without their drummer. Undaunted, they decided to play an acoustic set and still managed to have the entire venue bouncing (not too mention stage diving.) I don't think many people can think of shows they have been to where the entire crowd was stage diving and starting circle pits to 3 guys with acoustic guitars! The long awaited album was finally released in 2008 and I couldn't wait to get hold of a copy and took it upon myself to sell some copies in the shop I work in (Billys, which can be found on Burleigh Street, Cambridge). In fact it was pointed out to me by a colleague at work that the album, or certainly most of its tracks, have been played at work every day since I got my grubby mitts on a copy. Not to mention that a certain member of Crucial was seen at a punk show, hosted by the legendary local promoters Last Gang In Town, purchasing a number of copies and handing them out to people while shouting in a drunken rage "You need this record in your lives!"

The album is 16 tracks (say Ed, what did happen to the other 2.5 tracks?) of unadulterated, in your face, British punk. I've toyed with the idea of a "favorite track" and its not so much that I cant choose one, more that it just changes all the time. There are the edgy political tracks such as *Big Yellow Taxi* and *My First Political Song* for when you want to hate on "the man" and "rebel rebel fuck the system". *Oh God Your All So Ugly* and *Oooh Gorgeous* whilst at first listen come across as comical, are steeped in social awareness and commentary. I mean we've all met that irritating hot slag who just knows it and you honestly do think "for crying out loud, FUCK OFF!" While writing songs of this sort of caliber, they still manage to throw in some plain old angry punk tunes like *The Cunts* and possibly my favourite (of today) *I Won't Pay*. The latter containing some of my favourite lyrics off the album: 'the Mickey Mouse heads of state in a world of junk food culture' and 'so we put a cheesy restaurant in every Americanised mall, but what the sell as fast food isn't fast or food at all, it's fucking shit!' Bang on the money, people should sit up and take notice! Oh and if any of you still don't have a copy shame on you! There are still copies available from Billy's Bikes in Cambridge, their website, All Ages in Camden and of course from the band themselves at live shows. [DOM] myspace.com/ichcolchesterpunx

The Edelweiss Pirates - Demo

The drummer of this band is Raph, a cool kid I know who puts on shows, does radio and all sorts of cool punk stuff. First time I met him after a Billynomates show at the Portland, where we sung NOFX and Rancid songs with his acoustic guitar in the street. We are pretty wasted by all the partying and dancing previously. He also likes 1980s USHC which makes him cool in my book. He's up in Edinburgh now and I guess the rest of the band are also at Uni or whatever, but I hear they are touring in the summer.

Anyway, this band plays more old-time punk rock that reminds of the better parts of the Clash, Zeke, the Hives and that Swedish band that looks/sounds like a Motorhead-themed Village People. There are only three tracks on this demo I heard of theirs on myspace, my favourite of which was *PS Punks*, which sounds like a lot of that early 1980s USHC, like the Stimulators or something like that. Their singer probably sounds a bit too British on these recordings. This is music to drink beer and pogo too like it's still 1979. [B5K] myspace.com/theedelweisspirates1

The Tagnuts - Gimpin'

I remember the first few shows I saw of the Tagnuts, a local Cambridge 3 piece ska punk outfit. Really raw, a bit unrefined, but worth a watch. I seem to recall how they seemed to get pushed a side into that group of local acts who not many people took seriously, which isn't always a bad thing. I got the impression that promoters saw them as a 'oh fuck someone has pulled out who can we get to fill in for them' kinda band. Then they added a new member to the band, enter the Dan. "That guy" who used to just jump on stage to shout a long to some songs became quite a frontman. In the last year or so the Tagnuts have really got shit together and refined that gimpin' sound.

11 tracks of raw cider-infused 'gimp core' tracks with a cocaine/ket chaser, all wrapped up in a crevice of a crackwhore. Some of the tracks on this recording don't really do the songs justice compared to live. Of course provided this it's not someone's birthday. Where you may get a guitarist dressed like a twat in a mullet wig and track-suit and a bassist so fucked he can't stand up or play (not for lack of trying though) Favourite tracks of the album would probably be *Crisis*, *10 More Years* and *Think About It*. And Luke Brewer is a bell-end. [DOM]
myspace.com/thetagnuts



I.C.H.



the edelweiss pirates



the tagnuts

*photos liberated from myspace...

**LOCAL BANDS! SEND US YOUR DEMOS, CDs, VINYL AND TAPES!
WE WILL REVIEW IT! FOR REAL!**

(JUST PLEASE, DON'T SEND IN ANY GLOSSY PHOTOS OF YOURSELVES POSING AT A POKER TABLE WITH WHISKEY TUMBLERS AND CIGARS (UNLESS YOU'RE IN A REAL GANG), OR IN A BACK ALLEY WITH STRATEGICALLY- PLACED GRAFFITI (UNLESS IT'S STILL 1986 AND YOU'RE A YOUTH CREW BAND), OR WITH IN SOME FUCKING FIELD NOT LOOKING AT EACH OTHER (UNLESS YOU'RE AN INDIE BAND). THX!)

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DIGITAL EDITION